2012 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: Moose

PERIOD: 6/1/2012 - 5/31/2013

HERD: MO201 - ABSAROKA

HUNT AREAS: 8-9, 11

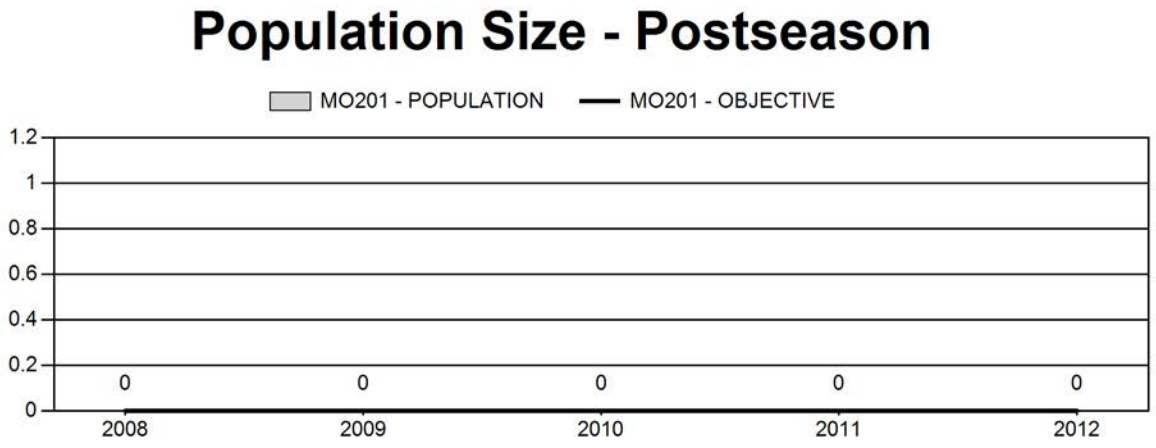
PREPARED BY: DOUG MCWHIRTER

	2007 - 2011 Average	2012	2013 Proposed
Population:	0	N/A	N/A
Harvest:	9	10	10
Hunters:	10	10	10
Hunter Success:	90%	100%	100%
Active Licenses:	10	10	10
Active License Percent:	90%	100%	100%
Recreation Days:	85	63	100
Days Per Animal:	9.4	6.3	10
Males per 100 Females	50	0	
Juveniles per 100 Females	38	0	

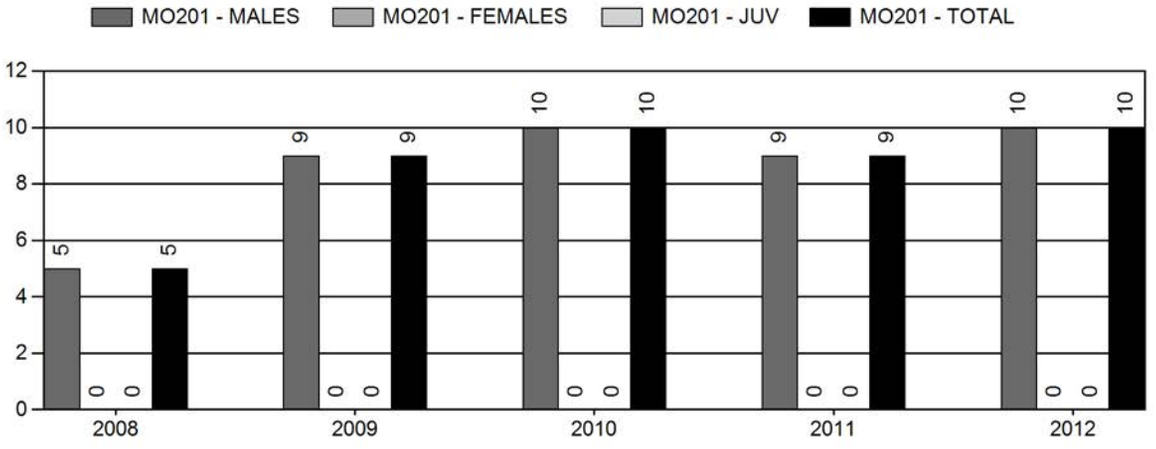
Population Objective:	0
Management Strategy:	Special
Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective:	N/A%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	25
Model Date:	1/1/1872

Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

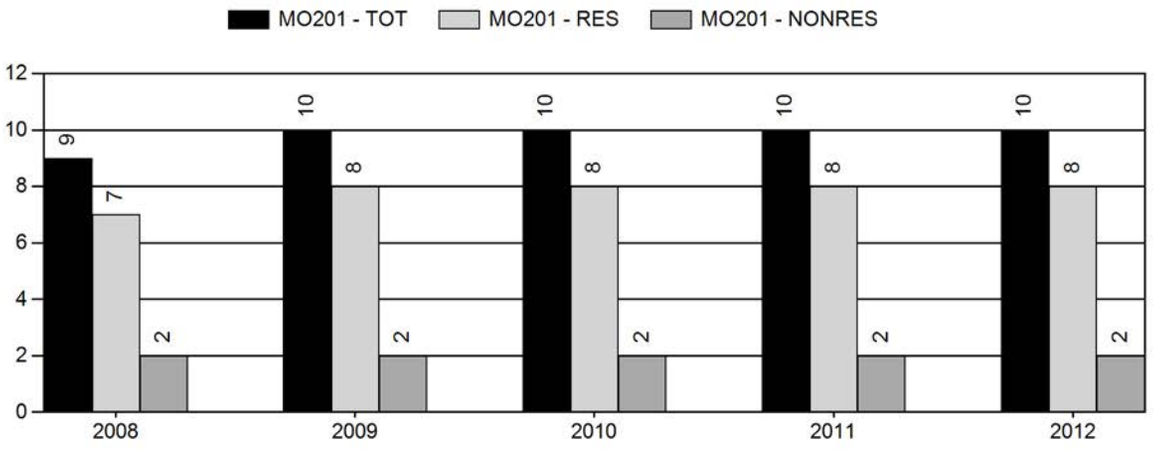
	JCR Year	Proposed
Females ≥ 1 year old:	N/A%	N/A%
Males ≥ 1 year old:	N/A%	N/A%
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	N/A%	N/A%
Total:	N/A%	N/A%
Proposed change in post-season population:	N/A%	N/A%



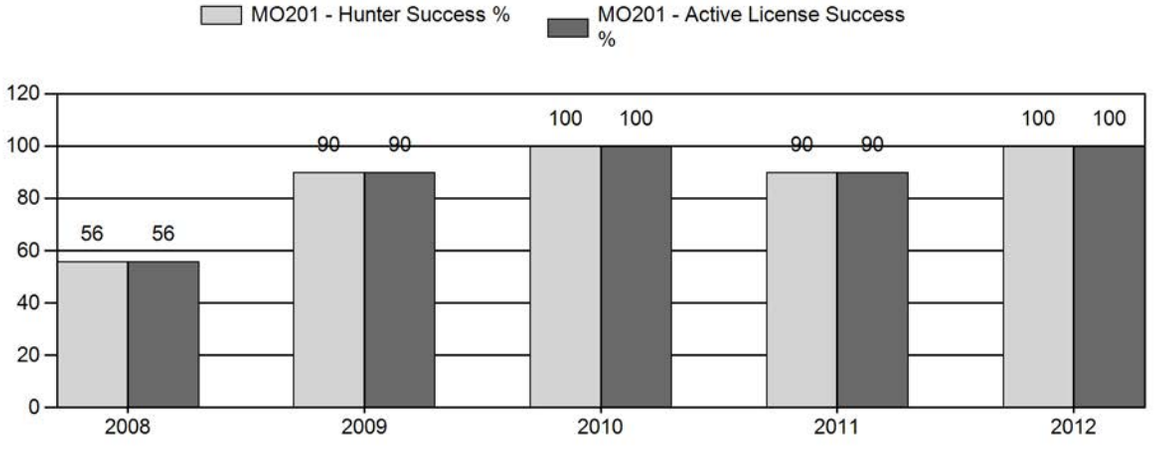
Harvest



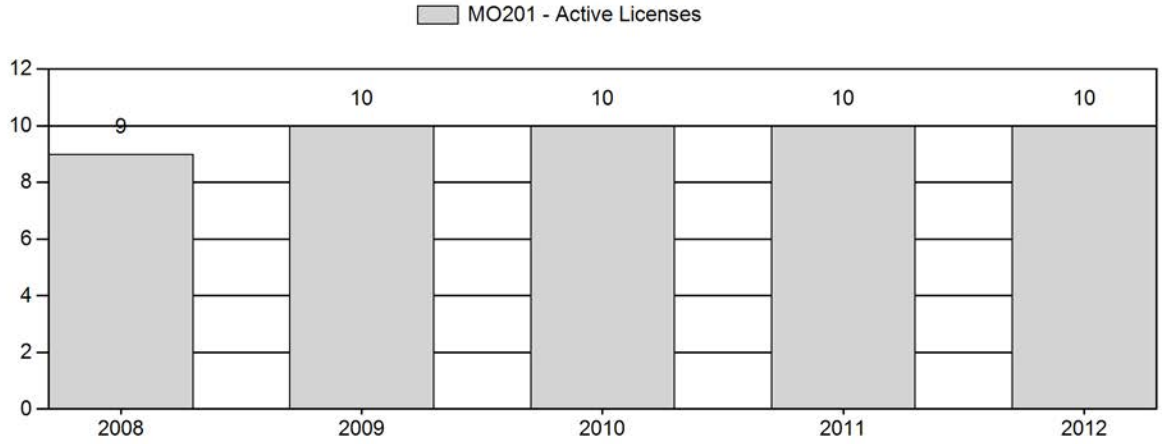
Number of Hunters



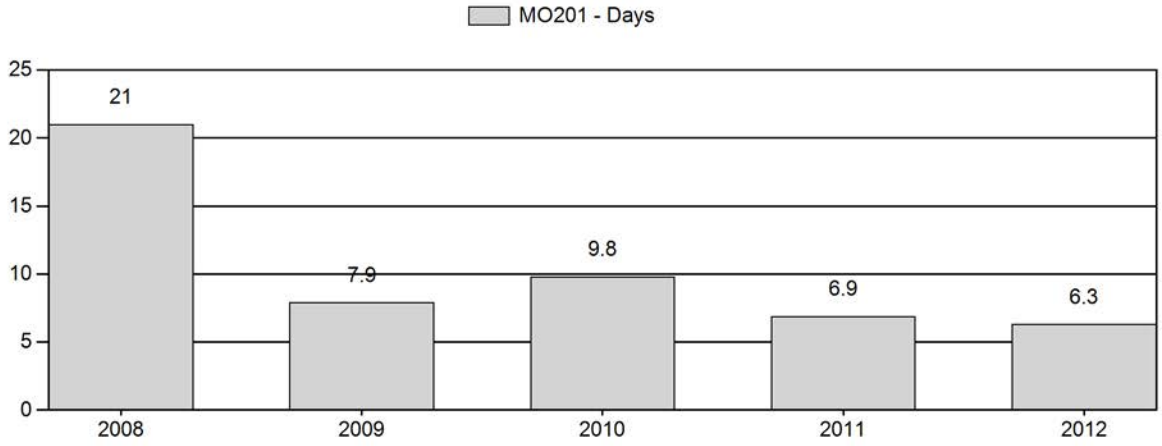
Harvest Success



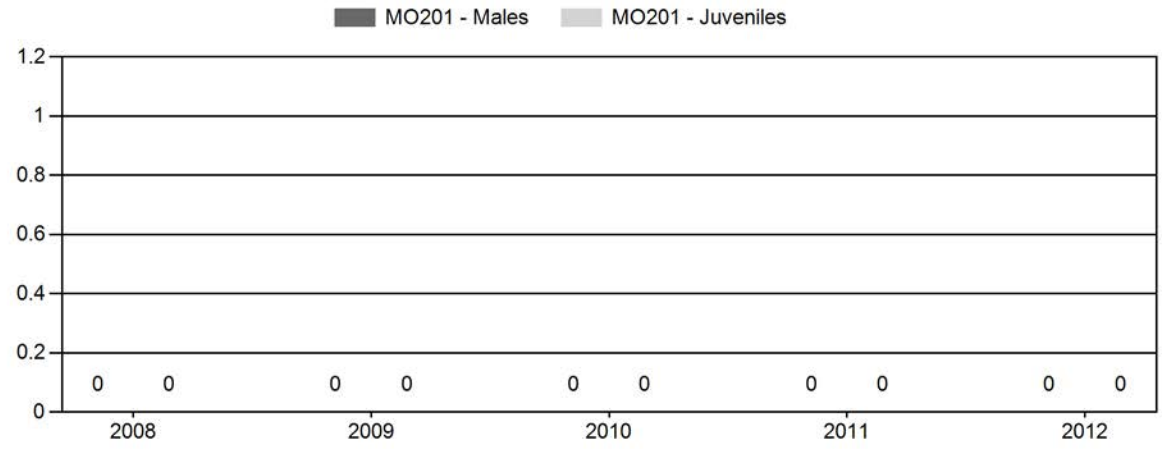
Active Licenses



Days Per Animal Harvested



Preseason Animals per 100 Females



2008 - 2012 Preseason Classification Summary

for Moose Herd MO201 - ABSAROKA

		MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES				Males to 100 Females				Young to		
Year	Pre Pop	Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Tot Cls	Cls Obj	Ylng	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
2008	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0
2009	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0
2010	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0
2011	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0
2012	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	± 0	0	± 0	0

2013 HUNTING SEASONS
ABSAROKA MOOSE HERD (MO201)

Hunt Area	Type	Dates of Seasons Opens	Closes	Quota	Limitations
8		CLOSED			
9	1	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	5	Limited quota; antlered moose
11	1	Sept. 10	Nov. 10	5	Limited quota; antlered moose
Archery					
9		Sept. 1	Sept. 30		Refer to Section 3 of this Chapter
11		Sept. 1	Sept. 9		Refer to Section 3 of this Chapter

Hunt Area	Type	Quota change from 2012
		No Change
Total		**No Change**

Management Evaluation
Current Postseason Population Management Objective: n/a
2012 Postseason Population Estimate: n/a
2013 Proposed Postseason Population Estimate: n/a

Herd Unit Issues. Due to very low moose densities and the resulting lack of population data, there is no postseason population estimate for this herd unit. Six previously existing moose herd units (Thorofare, Crandall, Sunlight, North Fork, South Fork, Greybull/Gooseberry) were combined in 2003 to create the Absaroka Moose Herd Unit. In 2008 Hunt Areas 11, 12, 13, and 31 were combined to form the current Hunt Area 11. Hunt Area 9 (Greybull River and Gooseberry Creek drainages) and Hunt Area 8 (Thorofare, which has been closed since 2006) represent the remaining hunt areas in this herd unit. Management direction at the current time is to allow some moose hunting opportunity while encouraging moose numbers to grow, or at least be maintained. This strategy will be reviewed in 2014.

Weather. The influence of weather on moose population dynamics in the Absaroka and Beartooth Mountains is unknown. Most areas occupied by moose in this herd unit do not experience significant snow depths, and when and where that does occur, movement to more favorable areas is possible. On the other hand, because good moose habitats are so limited in this herd unit, weather conditions that negatively impact these habitats may have a significant role.

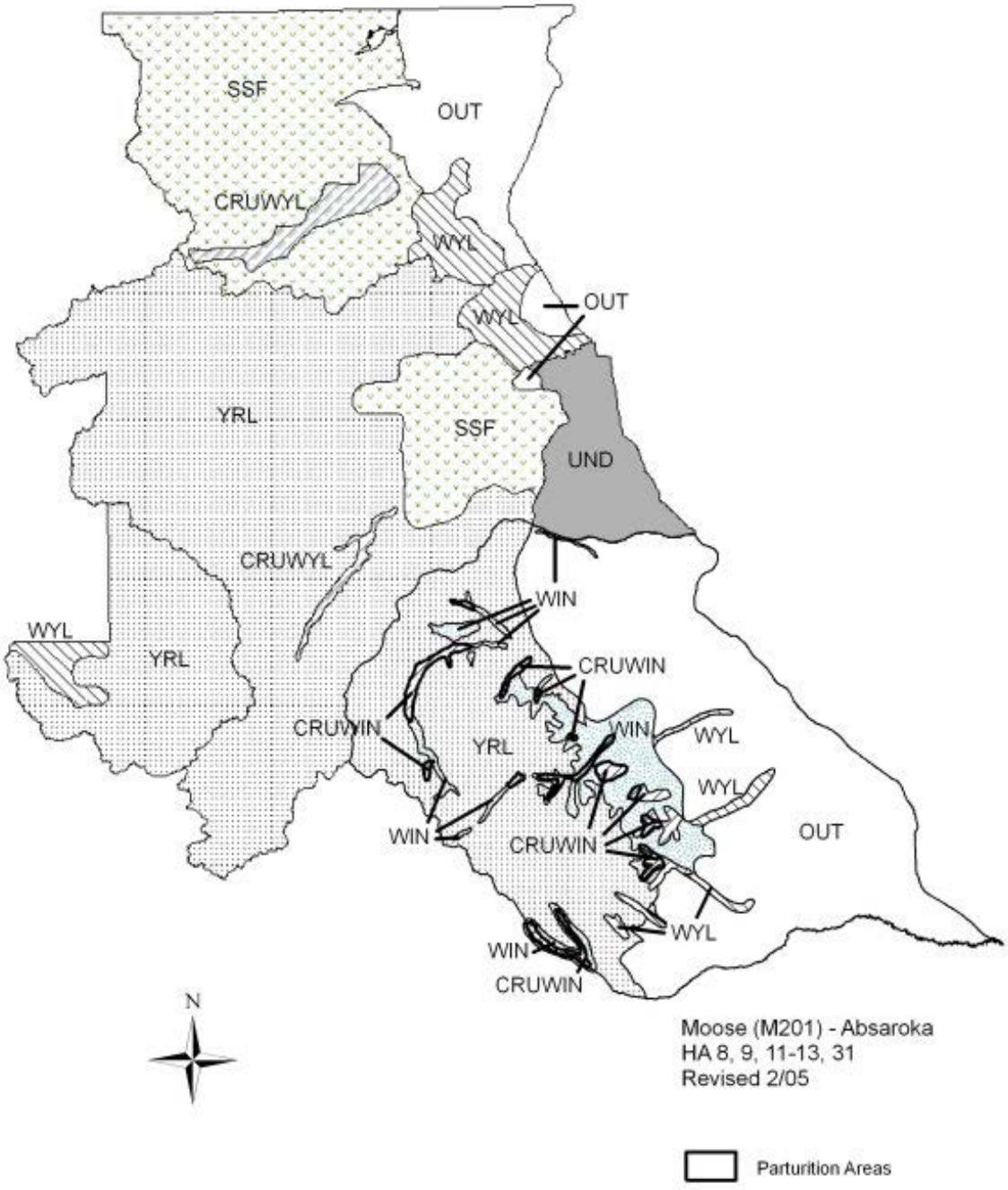
Habitat. No habitat monitoring data is collected in this herd unit. Moose habitats throughout the Absaroka Mountains vary widely from expansive, willow-covered flood plains and remote wilderness setting of the Thorofare, to rather narrow ribbons of riparian habitats along the Absaroka Front. Lack of expansive willow-riparian habitats along most of this herd unit has made increased use of spruce-fir forest types a necessity for moose compared to other areas. Major portions of this herd unit burned in 1988 and effects of significant habitat changes from these fires on this habitat type specifically have generally been detrimental to moose. Recent drought has presumably had a negative effect on moose survival and recruitment, as have increasing

numbers of large predators. It is suspected that the combination of habitat loss, drought, and predation has negatively influenced moose in most portions of this herd unit.

Field Data. None exists for this herd unit. Because moose exist at such low densities in this herd unit, collection of useful classification and trend information is essentially impossible. The last effort was in 2004, when 9.3 hours of helicopter survey time was spent to survey the entire herd unit and only 32 moose were observed.

Harvest Data. Management of moose in the Absaroka Moose Herd Unit since its creation in 2003 has remained similar, with 5 permits issued in Hunt Area 9 and 5 permits issued in Area 11. An average of 8-10 bulls/year are taken by hunters, and hunter effort usually ranges from 8-10 days per moose harvested. Moose hunters generally observe an average of 8-12 moose during their hunt. In 2012, hunter success was 100% in both Area 9 and Area 11 and 9 bulls were killed (one Area 11 hunter killed a moose in the wrong area). Aged animals from Area 9 included 4.5, 5.5, and 11.5 year old bulls with antler widths ranging from 40-43 inches. Two bulls were aged from Area 11, including a 5.5 and 6.5 year old bulls, with antler widths from 42.5 to 47 inches. It is apparent that current management is allowing some moose to be recruited into older age classes.

Population. Although population models have been constructed, the lack of data has rendered them useless and unreliable. Past attempts have tried to estimate population sizes based on extrapolations of the harvest rate of adult males from other moose populations, but again have produced estimates with little to no reliability. Because the collection of survey data is difficult, if not impossible to collect, both population estimate and trend count based objectives are not possible. Therefore, it is recommended that in the future a hunter satisfaction objective be used, and that secondary objectives such as hunter success, hunter effort, and average age of harvested bulls be used to manage moose populations in this herd unit. The 2013 permit levels represent no change from the 2012 season, as current season structures in Hunt Areas 9 and 11 are addressing moose management goals. Therefore, 5 permits be issued for Hunt Area 9 and 5 permits for Hunt Area 11 for 2013, which should result in the harvest of 9-10 bull moose.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Moose (M201) - Absaroka
HA 8, 9, 11-13, 31
Revised 2/05
Parturition Areas